

**Plumas County Children and Families Commission
PCCFC**

Minutes

Wednesday, February 07, 2001

9:00 a.m. - 11:47 a.m.

Fairgrounds Administration Bldg, Boardroom

Attendees:

Commissioners: Kristy Brown, Carol Burney, Shelley Miller, Tami Mitchell, Paula Russell, Rita Scardaci, Elliot Smart, and Irasema Tavares
Staff: Ellen Vieira, Ex. Dir., and Diana Conen
Public: Michael Butler, Patricia Leslie, Linda Magaretic, and John Sebold.

I. Introductions:

Commissioners and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

II. Review and approval of minutes:

Ms. Vieira noted that there was no motion to adjourn the January 24, 2001 meeting.

Mr. Smart, seconded by Ms. Burney, moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

IV. Report on Regional Activities:

a. PCCFC support for Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) Project.

Ms. Vieira reported to the Commission on the HCFA Medi-Cal Project and the Regional Dental activities. Plumas, Sierra, and Lassen County Children and Family Commissions have allocated \$10,000 to the Regional Dental Plan. Modoc County has not yet made any commitment to participate in the regional dental planning process. Gloria Wyeth from Sierra County Children and Families Commission and Ms. Vieira will attend the State Commission meeting on February 15, 2001 to present the four county Regional Dental Project to the CCFC.

The HCFA Project is requesting each of the four counties fund .25 FTE for a county coordinator, to be matched by federal dollars, providing each of the counties with a .50 FTE county project coordinator. The HCFA Project will only include children currently enrolled in Medi-Cal/Healthy Families and dentists enrolled as Medi-Cal/Healthy Families providers. The rural model for this project is in the process of development. The Executive Director will give more information to the Commission at its next meeting.

b. Plumas County Pilot Dental Project.

Linda Margaretic, Health Services Program Manager at Sierra-Cascade Family Opportunities, Inc., presented a Plumas County Dental Project to the Commission. The purpose of the pilot project would be to create a viable and comprehensive system of dental care for Plumas County children. For the purposes of the pilot project, services would focus on preschool children age 2.5-5 years, and would fully utilize all existing community dental resources. Sierra-Cascade would be the administrative agency and provide case management. Screening services for children and parent education would also be included in the project. Targeted sites for referrals would be Feather River College Child Care Center, the Quincy Special Day Pre-School, and the Head Start sites in Quincy and Portola. Ms. Margaretic presented an outline of the project, budget, timeline, evaluation, a survey of county dentists, and a letter of support from Stewart Gately, DDS.

Dr. Gately has agreed to volunteer his services to perform the dental screenings and develop the most appropriate treatment plan for each child, as well as create a comprehensive dental education curriculum. One of the biggest barriers to Medi-Cal, CTP, and Healthy Families programs are the cumbersome documentation requirements and the low reimbursement rates for dental providers. This project would provide an increased rate of reimbursement for the dentist and would eliminate the excessive paperwork for dental staff. Evaluation of the project included a parent questionnaire; and feedback from dentists and staff, as well as participating child care center directors and project coordinator. Treatment and financial information will be collected and evaluated. From this data an evaluation report will be written. The total cost of the one-year dental pilot project is \$15,000.

Ms. Miller asked that at the next meeting the Executive Director present written options and explanations on the various dental programs that have been presented to the Commission. Mr. Smart said that one large part that the Commission could play would be in taking an advocacy position to get a long term solution to the oral health problem for children, perhaps working with other county commissions.

V. Plumas County Children and Families Commission:

a., i. RFA #PCCFC 01-02 Final Intent to Award.

Ms. Vieira presented the final funding recommendations of the Evaluation Committee.

Mr. Smart, seconded by Ms. Scardaci, moved to approve the funding of the Sierra-Cascade Family Opportunities request for \$10,610 for the Healthy Touch program. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Brown, and Ms. Russell abstaining.

Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Russell, moved to approve the funding of the Plumas Unified School District request for \$29,000 for Early Intervention Services for At-Risk Infants. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smart and Ms. Burney abstaining.

Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Elliot, moved to approve the funding of the Plumas County Public Health Agency request for \$30,000 for Family Resource centers. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Scardaci abstaining.

Ms. Tavares moved to approve the funding of the Plumas Unified School District's Healthy Start Program request of \$29,710 for an Infant Toddler Child Care Center, planning grant. The motion failed for lack of a second. After a discussion it was apparent that the Commission had further questions that needed to be answered by the applicant before funding could be considered. Ms. Miller said that she would be willing to contact the applicant. Ms. Miller directed Ms. Vieira to let the Portola Healthy Start program know that their proposal is still being considered for funding, and to request a presentation at the next Commission Meeting on March 14, 2001.

APPLICANT	PROGRAM	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	AMOUNT	COMMISSION ACTION
Sierra-Cascade Family Opportunities Inc.	Healthy Touch Program	County-wide Program	\$10,600	Approved for funding
Plumas Unified School District	Early Intervention Services for At-Risk Infants 0-2.5 years	County-wide Services	\$29,000	Approved for funding
Plumas County Public Health Agency	PCN Resource Centers	County-wide Services	\$30,000	Approved for funding
Plumas Unified School District	Infant Toddler Child Care Center	Eastern Plumas County	\$29,710	On hold pending presentation.

a. ii. Retention Incentives for Child Care RFF.

Ms. Vieira said that the current RFF for the Retention Incentives for Child Care is due to the CCFC February 28, 2001, but that the PCCFC may also submit a proposal in April 2001. The application process is more extensive than originally thought. The amount asked for in the Letter of Intent can be modified if needed.

Ms. Vieira requested that the PCCFC authorize the application for the second round of funding in April.

Ms. Russell, seconded by Ms. Brown, moved to apply in April to the CCFC for funding for the Retention Incentives. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Guest Speaker: Pat Leslie, Children's System of Care

Pat Leslie, Program Manager for Children's System of Care of the Plumas County Mental Health Department, presented a brief overview of the capacity of the current system to identify and treat childhood mental disorders and related issues. This involves a variety of professionals, including: psychiatrists; psychologists; Marriage Family Therapists (MFT formerly Marriage Family Child Counselor MFCC); clinical social workers; paraprofessionals and support personnel.

Services to very young children are usually provided on an out patient basis, either clinic or home-based. Out patient services include: individual; group, or family therapy; accessible clinics; schools; homes; psychological testing and medication; case management, and respite services. Children's services are becoming increasingly separate from general mental health programs and decentralized to on-school sites, resource centers, crisis locations, and other geographically dispersed sites. The Children's System of Care is a collaborative interagency system of care with services that are: youth centered, family involved, culturally competent, and comprehensive. The current caseload is 45 children eight years or older. There have been some inquiries from parents of five year olds.

The counties of Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, and Sacramento are involved in the Infant/Family Mental Health Initiative, which will be expanded to four additional counties including at least one rural county. Funding will include \$50,000 for service delivery, and \$50,000 in Technical Assistance. The goals of the program are to increase capacity for services directly to pre-schoolers; train infant mental health specialists; and provide community outreach. Ms. Leslie said that this program matches very well with PCCFC Strategic Plan goals of capacity building and awareness. The bidders' conference will be the week of Feb. 12th, and the deadline for application is early March.

John Sebold, Director of Plumas County Mental Health Department, addressed the Commission. He said that the services that Mental Health can offer are targeted to the Medi-Cal eligible population. He has discussed with Head Start the possibility of offering services on-site.

Ms Miller, who had to leave on another matter, asked Ms. Russell to chair the rest of the meeting.

VII. Public Comments:

Ms. Burney suggested that the Commission use its advocacy role to support early intervention services for pre-school children to both the Plumas County Board of Education, and Far Northern Regional Center. Ms. Scardaci said that there was no reason that the Commission can't take an advocacy position. Ms. Burney said that there is a critical need to serve at-risk infants. Ms. Vieira said that parents are the most powerful advocates for their children. Ms. Mitchell agreed, but said that families of infants faced with the possibility of a disability, are too stressed to fully participate as advocates for their children. Ms. Russell suggested that as part of the process for funding the grant to the County Office of Education, the Commission could encourage collaboration.

VIII. Next Meetings.

The next meeting will be held on March 14, 2001, and meetings were scheduled for April 11, 2001 and May 9, 2001.

Mr. Smart, seconded by Ms Mitchell, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11: 47 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Diana Conen.